



TOWN OF
AMHERST
MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Town Manager
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townmanager@amherstma.gov

To: Town Council
Town Clerk

Fr: Paul Bockelman, Town Manager

Dt: June 1, 2020

Re: Committee Reappointments

Appointment

With this memo, I refer to the Town Council and simultaneously file with the Town Clerk, the following names of the people I desire to reappoint as a members of the following committees in accordance with Section 2.11(b) of the Amherst Home Rule Charter. The dates are the ending dates of the appointments.

Agricultural Commission:

- Massoud Hashemi June 30, 2023
- David Machowski June 30, 2023

Affordable Housing Trust:

- Sidonia Ferreira June 30, 2023

Board of Assessors:

- Richard Morse June 30, 2023

Council on Aging:

- Gregory Bascomb June 30, 2023
- Tim Neale June 30, 2023

Design Review Board:

- Erika Zekos June 30, 2023

Historical Commission:

- Janet Marquardt June 30, 2023
- Hetty Startup June 30, 2023

Leisure Services & Supplemental Education Commission:

- Youssef Fadel June 30, 2023

Munson Memorial Building Trustees:

- Claudia O'Brien June 30, 2023

Public Art Commission:

- William Kaizen June 30, 2023

Residents Advisory Committee:

- Keisha Dennis June 30, 2021
- Constance Kruger June 30, 2021
- James Pistrang June 30, 2021

Water Supply Protection Committee:

- Christina Cianfrani June 30, 2023
- Jack Jemsek June 30, 2023

Profiles

- **Agricultural Commission:**

- Masoud Hashemi – Mr. Hashemi is an extension professor in Stockbridge School of Agriculture at University of Massachusetts Amherst. Currently he teaches three courses including "Sustainable Soil and Crop Management", "Pasture Management", and "Global Challenges with Agriculture and Environment." He is also the Graduate Program Director for Stockbridge School of Agriculture. He has been a member of the Commission since 2017.
- David Machowski – Mr. Machowski is the Amherst Farmers Market Manager. He has been a member of the Commission since 2018.

- **Affordable Housing Trust:**

- Sidonio Ferreira – Mr. Ferreira is the Special Assistant to Vice Chancellor and Campus Life at the University of Massachusetts. Sid is one of the Resident Directors of A Better Chance, a program that provides young men from around the country with the opportunity to attend Amherst Regional High School to pursue a better education in high school and beyond. He has been a member of the trust since 2017.

- **Board of Assessors:**

- Richard Morse – Mr. Morse grew up in Northampton, attending public schools there. He then graduated from Amherst College and from Boston College Law School. He has worked for several years as a high school teacher and served as an assistant district attorney in Springfield for 22 years, prosecuting street crime and domestic violence on a busy trial calendar. He has attended the four-day “assessor’s school” at UMass in the summer of 2016, which is a prerequisite for being on the Board. He has been a member of the Board since 2017.

- **Council on Aging:**

- Greg Bascomb - Mr. Bascomb is an active volunteer at the Senior Center in the Bread and Produce program and previously served on the Town’s Human Rights Commission – where he was awarded a special “Hero” award for his service on the Commission – and the Town’s Housing Review Board. Mr. Bascomb is an attorney who continues to advocate for the needs of people in Western Massachusetts fueled by three decades of experience working on education, economic and environmental

health, and human rights issues. He has been a member of the Council since February.

- Timothy Neale - Mr. Neale is a volunteer driver for the Senior Center's Medical Appointment Transportation Program. He also works as an election warden during Town elections. Mr. Neale previously served as a member of the Finance Committee and, prior to retirement, was Director of Leadership Giving at Amherst College. He has been a member of the Council since February.

- **Design Review Board:**

- Erika Zekos – Ms. Zekos has been a south Amherst resident for 16 years. She is a member of the faculty of the Department of Architecture at UMass and is a practicing artist and architectural designer with an interest in community-engaged design. Prior to serving on the Design Review Board, she served on Town Meeting, and while her children were attending Amherst Public Schools, Erika also contributed to the efforts of the school PGOs and the Amherst Education Foundation. She is currently a regular volunteer for the Jones Library and the Amherst Survival Center. She has been a member of the Board since 2019.

- **Historical Commission:**

- Hetty Startup - Ms. Startup is an architectural historian who has experience in both historic house museum management and college level art and architectural history course delivery, most recently at the Boston Architectural College (BAC). She works as a house director at one of the sororities associated with UMass and sings with the Pioneer Valley Symphony Chorus. She has been a member of the Commission since 2019.
- Janet Marquardt – Ms. Marquardt is both a trained Systems Analyst for financial institutions and a Cultural Historian. She holds the rank of Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Eastern Illinois University. Marquardt has worked on historical architecture and its interpretations, the role of historical artifacts and documents in the contemporary world, and the analysis of archival materials. She is currently completing the implementation of the Writers Walk Project, has done research on local barn types and conditions, and has been learning New England architectural materials and techniques since moving to the area in 2014. She has been a member of the Commission since 2015.

- **LSSE Commission:**

- Youssef Fadel – Mr. Fadel looks forward to his second term on the LSSE board. His child attends the high school and he has been involved with Winterfest since the very beginning. He loves living in North Amherst. He has been a member of the Commission since 2017.

- **Munson Memorial Building Trustees:**

- Claudia O'Brien – Ms. O'Brien has volunteered at the Munson for many years and has served as a Trustee since 2017.

- **Public Art Commission:**

- William Kaizen – Mr. Kaizen is an art historian whose work focuses on the relationship between art, politics and the mass media. He has published books on

early video art and the Atari 2600 videogame Adventure. He has also curated exhibitions on Pop Art and cinema and career-spanning surveys of the work of Derek Boshier and Rainer Ganahl. His current research is on metagames and representations of the Cold War. He has been a member of the Commission since 2017.

- **Residents Advisory Committee:**

- Keisha Dennis – Ms. Dennis has lived in Amherst for 24 years. Initially she came here as a student but then chose to raise a family here. Her son has enjoyed his Amherst Public School experiences and graduates from ARHS this spring. Keisha has worked for a local non-profit and her service on RAC helps her introduce residents to Town Boards, Committees and Commissions. She enjoys helping others get involved with Town government. She has been a member of the Committee since 2019.
- Connie Kruger – Ms. Kruger is a long-time resident of Amherst. She worked in the Planning Department in Town Hall and has also served as a Select Board member. Connie continues to enrich our community through her community service and creative endeavors. She has been a member of the Committee since 2019.
- Jim Pistrang – Mr. Pistrang has been actively involved in town government as Town Moderator, the Amherst LSSE Community Theater, and Amherst Regional Middle School Ultimate athletic coaching. Jim works as a self-employed software developer. He has been a member of the Committee since 2019.

- **Water Supply Protection Committee:**

- Christina Cianfrani – Ms. Cianfrani is an associate professor of hydrology at Hampshire College Her research focuses on watershed processes approached from an ecological and engineering perspective. Specifically, she explores the effects of urbanization on stream systems and conducts basic geomorphological research relating hydrologic stream characteristics with biotic integrity. Her teaching interests include watershed hydrology, stream ecology, sustainable water resources, stream restoration, and fluvial geomorphology. She has been a member of the Committee since 2018.
- Jack Jemsek – Mr. Jemsek, a twenty-year resident of Amherst, has raised three daughters whom all attended Amherst Public Schools. His work as an environmental consultant for soil and ground water investigations helps inform his volunteer work for the Town. Jack has a PhD in marine geophysics. He has been a member of the Committee since 2018.

Summary of Process

The Town Manager's office inquired with the chairs of the individual committees and confirmed the individual's' interests in being reappointed.

Background Information

Below is the relevant section of the Charter for your review.

Section 2.11(b) of the Charter states: Members of Multiple-Member Bodies: The Town Manager shall refer to the Town Council and simultaneously file with the Town Clerk, the name of each person the Town Manager desires to appoint as a member of a multiple-member body. Appointment of a member of a multiple-member body made by the Town Manager shall become effective on the 30th day after the date on which notice of the proposed appointment was filed with the Town Clerk unless approved or rejected by a majority of the full Town Council within the 30 days.

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Posted on: May 22, 2020

Town Manager Seeks Members to Serve on Town Boards & Committees

The Town Manager continues to seek volunteers to serve on Town Boards. Boards and Committees that have or may have vacancies include the Agricultural Commission, Affordable Housing Trust, CDBG Advisory Committee, Council on Aging, Disability Access Advisory Committee, Leisure Services & Supplemental Education (LSSE) Commission, Public Art Commission, and Public Shade Tree Committee.

A current list of vacancies [can be found here](#). A complete list of all boards and committees [can be found here](#)

Here is a little about each of some of the committees. Much more information can be found on the [Town's Boards & Committee Page here](#)

- **Agricultural Commission:** The Agricultural Commission's purpose is to support commercial agriculture and other farming activities in the Town. The Commission's duties include: promoting agricultural-based economic opportunities; acting as mediators, advocates, educators, and/or negotiators on farming issues; working for the preservation of agricultural lands; pursuing all initiatives appropriate to creating a sustainable agricultural community; reviewing and advising on development proposed in farmland areas, as may be permitted under zoning and other development regulations.
- **Affordable Housing Trust:** The Trust's mission, as an instrument of Town government, is to promote the Town's affordable housing priorities as determined through the most recent town housing plan, particularly to create safe, decent, and affordable housing for our most vulnerable populations. The Trust meets monthly.
- **CDBG Advisory Committee:** The CDBG Committee makes recommendations to the Town Manager regarding the Town's CDBG program that includes both social service and non-social service community development activities. CDBG funds - \$825,000 in FY19 - are awarded to projects, programs, and services that improve the lives of Amherst's low- and moderate-income residents and/or increase the accessibility for individuals with disabilities.
- **Council on Aging:** The Council acts as an advocate for the elderly of Amherst before local, state, and national bodies. The Council works with the Director of Senior Services to promote and support the efforts of the Director and Senior Center.
- **Disability Access Advisory Committee:** The Disability Access Advisory Committee serves the Town as an advisory committee on issues of physical, programmatic, and employment accessibility, and works to ensure equal access for people with disabilities. The Town is currently updating its ADA self-evaluation and transition plan.
- **LSSE Commission:** The LSSE Commission – which is Amherst's version of a recreation department - assists the LSSE Department by advising on recreational facilities and a variety of leisure and recreational programs and supplemental education classes. The Commission develops policies, rules and regulations governing the operation of the

facilities and the delivery of LSSE programs. The Commission also advises on public playgrounds, parks, and athletic facilities.

- Public Art Commission: The Public Art Commission fosters a greater community awareness of the interaction with public art, and through public art, promotes cultural diversity and an improved quality of life for Amherst's residents.
- Public Shade Tree Committee: The Public Shade Tree Committee preserves, protects, and promotes Town shade trees and works in conjunction with the Tree Warden. The Committee advises the Tree Warden and Town Manager to ensure the values of shade trees are taken into consideration when policies are set. The committee also educates the public about the importance and benefits of Town shade trees and has regular tree planting activities.

The Town Manager seeks residents who have relevant expertise or experience. We are especially seeking individuals of diverse backgrounds to serve on all boards, committees, and commissions.

If you are interested in volunteering to serve, please [fill out a Community Activity Form here](#).

If you have questions, reach out to our Community Participation Officers at GetInvolved@AmherstMA.gov